AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A recombinant fusion protein ~~including a sub-genie Stx2e fragment~~ comprising a B subunit of ~~the~~ a 2e Shiga toxin ~~(Stx2e)~~ in a fusion with a terminal histidine tag ~~the size of which approximately corresponds to the size of the fragment or a fraction of the fragment~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The recombinant fusion protein ~~according to claim~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the size of the terminal histidine tag is [[1]] 5 kDa, as a maximum.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The recomb nant fusion protein ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1 which has a plurality of cro:slinked fusion proteins.

6-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A plasmid containing DNA which encodes a fusion protein according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

18. (Withdrawn) An E.coli strain transformed by a plasmid according to claim 17.

19. (Withdrawn) An E.coli strain according to claim 18, deposited with the DSZM – Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkutturen under the number DSM 12721.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for the recombinant preparation of a sub-genie fragment of the Shiga toxin (Stx2e) in a fusion with a termina. tag wherein a sub-unit from the Stx2e operon is cloned

into a suitable vector system, the resultant recombinant plasmid is transformed into an E. coli strain, the resultant expression system is induced, and the fusion protein is expressed and purified.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 wherein the sub-genie fragment is a B sub-unit (Stx2eB) of the 2e Shiga toxin.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the size of the terminal tag is 1 kDa, as a maximum.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 20 to 22 wherein the terminal tag is an amino terminal His tag.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to any one of claims 20 to 23 wherein the expression culture is subjected to a lytic buffer treatment.

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to any one of claims 20 to 24 wherein the expression culture is subjected to a treatment in a French Press or by means of ultrasonic sound.

26. (Withdrawn) The method according to any one of claims 20 to 25 wherein the expression culture, after being treated by the French Press or by ultrasonic sound and/or a lytic buffer, is submitted to an affinity chromatographic purification.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 26 wherein purification is performed by means of a FPLC.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to any one of claims 20 to 27 wherein the purified fusion protein undergoes crosslinking.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of claims 20 to 28 wherein the fusion of spleen cells of mice immunized by using the recombinant fusion protein with myelom cells is used for producing hybridoma clones for the preparation of anti-Stx2eB immune globulins.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 where the antibodies produced by means of the hybridoma clones are employed for the in-process control for the production of the recombinant fusion proteins.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 or 30 wherein the antibodies produced by the hybridoma clones are used for an affinity chromatographic purification method for the Stx2e holotoxin.

32. (New) The recombinant fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the terminal histidine tag is six histidines.

33. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a recombinant fusion protein of claim 1.

34. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33 having immunogenic properties.